AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 2, as follows:

Referring now the drawings in which the numerals represent like elements or steps throughout the several views, Fig. 1 displays a block diagram representation of a subscription-based virtual personal computing service provider 100, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, that provides virtual personal computing services to users who enroll in or subscribe to (such users being also sometimes referred to herein as "enrollees" or "subscribers") a user-configurable service plan for such services. More particularly, the subscription-based virtual personal computing service provider 100 (also sometimes referred to herein as a "service provider 100") provides each subscriber, in exchange for payment of a subscription fee by the subscriber, with virtual non-volatile storage which is accessible by the subscriber through use of a subscriber device ~~102~~ via a communication session with the service provider 100, regardless of the subscriber's location during the communication session or the type of subscriber device ~~102~~ being used by the subscriber to enable such access. The virtual non-volatile storage may be utilized and configured by the subscriber as desired and generally, includes at least a operating system computer program (also sometimes referred to herein as an "operating system") stored therein, but may also include one or more application computer program(s) (also sometimes referred to herein as an "application(s)") stored therein. The operating system and applications, if any, may each be provided and installed in the virtual non-volatile storage by the subscriber or by the service provider 100 as a service to the subscriber. If either of the operating system or application(s), if any, are provided and installed in the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage by the service provider 100, the subscription fee paid by the subscriber to the service provider 100 is, preferably, increased accordingly. The application(s) may include, at the subscriber's preference, an application distributed by a computer software vendor

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(which may or may not be the service provider 100) or an application developed by the subscriber and/or another party.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 25, as follows:

In a first exemplary scenario, a subscriber may utilize his/her virtual non-volatile storage for the storage of data (e.g., in the form of data files or databases which store word processing documents, spreadsheets, contact information, electronic mail messages, and other types of data) produced, delivered, and/or accessible by an application(s) present on the subscriber's device ~~102~~ and for the storage of an operating system that enables, when executed, the storing, retrieval, and communication of such data to/from the virtual non-volatile storage. Thus, in such a first exemplary scenario, the computing services provided to the subscriber by the service provider 100 include, without limitation, the provision of communication facilities to enable the communication of data between the subscriber's device ~~102~~ and the virtual non-volatile storage, and, if not provided and installed in the virtual non-volatile storage by the subscriber, the provision of an operating system stored therein.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 5, as follows:

In a second exemplary scenario, a subscriber may utilize his/her virtual non-volatile storage for the storage of an application(s) which, when executed, retrieves or produces data (e.g., in the form of data files or databases which store word processing documents, spreadsheets, contact information, electronic mail messages, and other types of data) that is stored on the subscriber's device ~~102~~ and for the storage of an operating system that enables, when executed, the storing, retrieval, and communication of such data to/from the subscriber's device ~~102~~. Thus, in such a second exemplary scenario, the computing services provided to the subscriber by the service provider 100 include, but are not limited to, the provision

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of the virtual non-volatile storage, the provision of communication facilities to enable the communication of data between the subscriber's device ~~102~~ and the virtual non-volatile storage, and, if not provided and installed in the virtual non-volatile storage by the subscriber, the provision of an operating system and application(s) stored therein.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 17, as follows:

In a third exemplary scenario, a subscriber may utilize his/her virtual non-volatile storage in a manner which is, substantially, a combination of the first and second exemplary scenarios described above for the storage of: data (e.g., in the form of data files or databases which store word processing documents, spreadsheets, contact information, electronic mail messages, and other types of data) produced, delivered, and/or accessible by an application(s) present on the subscriber's device ~~102~~ or stored in the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage; one or more application(s) which, when executed, retrieves or produces data that is stored on the subscriber's device ~~102~~ or in the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage; and, for the storage of an operating system that enables, when executed, the storing, retrieval, and communication of such data to/from the subscriber's device ~~102~~ or the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage. Thus, in such a third exemplary scenario, the computing services provided to the subscriber by the service provider 100 include, but not limited to, the provision of the virtual non-volatile storage, the provision of communication facilities to enable the communication of data between the subscriber's device ~~102~~ and the virtual non-volatile storage, and, if not provided and installed in the virtual non-volatile storage by the subscriber, the provision of an operating system and application(s) stored therein.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 3, as follows:

It should be understood that the scope of the present invention comprises other scenarios related to the manner in which a subscriber may utilize his/her virtual non-volatile storage which may be similar to or different from the scenarios

5   described therein. It should also be understood that the scope of the present invention comprises the interaction of the service provider 100 with a variety of subscriber devices ~~102~~, as described below, and that the manner in which a particular subscriber device ~~102~~, generally, utilized by the subscriber in connection with his/her virtual non-volatile storage and/or upon personal

10   preference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 15, as follows:

Each subscriber utilizes a subscriber device ~~102~~ to communicatively connect to a host server 104, as illustrated in Fig. 1, in order to access his/her respective non-volatile storage portion 108 of a non-volatile storage 106 (i.e.,

15   his/her respective virtual non-volatile storage 108) and the data, operating system, and/or application program(s) stored therein. Preferably, the subscriber devices ~~102~~ establish respective communication sessions with an appropriate host server 104 by communicatively connecting to the host server 104 via a communication network 116 and communication links 118, 120. The communication network 116

20   and communication links 118, 120 comprise the communication facilities and infrastructure necessary to allow a bi-directional communication session to be established between a subscriber device ~~102~~ and the appropriate host server 104 via one or more media. Such facilities and infrastructure include, for example and not limitation, one or more of the public switched telephone network (PSTN), the

25   Internet, local area networks (LANs), wide area networks (WANs), and other forms of communication networks existing now or in the future having analog, digital, wired and wireless communication channels (including, but not limited to,

wired communication channels providing plain old telephone service (POTS), ISDN service, xDSL service, broadband cable service, or other communication services, wireless communication channels providing radio frequency, optical (e.g., infrared), satellite, or other communication services, and carrier technologies

5   utilizing copper wire, optical fiber, radio frequency signals, infrared signals, satellites, or other technologies, devices, and materials).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 3, as follows:

The subscriber devices 102, according to the embodiment of the present invention described herein, comprise a first plurality of subscriber devices 102A of

10   a first type, a second plurality of subscriber devices 102B of a second type, and a third plurality of subscriber devices 102C of a third type. Subscriber devices 102A of the first type, preferably, include computing and/or communication devices which are often referred to as "thick" client devices. Generally, such subscriber devices 102A have one or more processing units with substantial

15   computing capability, a substantial amount of volatile memory, a substantial amount of non-volatile storage, a very robust operating system, and one or more robust application program(s) which allow a user thereof to perform functions including, for example and not limitation, sophisticated word processing, spreadsheet processing, contact information maintenance, electronic mail

20   communication, database management, and other functions. Such subscriber devices 102A are often considered to be relatively immobile or non-movable and may include, without limitation, desktop or similar computer systems present in a subscribers' homes or offices, and desktop or similar computer systems present in hotels or other structures at which subscribers temporarily reside. It should be

25   understood that a subscriber does not need to own a subscriber device 102 which he/she utilizes to access his/her virtual non-volatile storage. Thus, a subscriber may, as previously alluded to above, use a subscriber device 102A possessed by a

hotel or other party to access his/her virtual non-volatile storage while the subscriber is away from his/her home or office.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 1, as follows:

The manner in which a particular subscriber utilizes his/her virtual non-volatile storage may, as briefly described above, be somewhat dependent upon the type of subscriber device ~~102~~ most often utilized by the subscriber in connection with his/her virtual non-volatile storage and/or upon personal preference. For example, a first subscriber who travels little and uses a subscriber device 102A of the first type (i.e., a "thick" subscriber device 102A), but who cannot or does not desire to store certain data on his/her subscriber device 102A (e.g., because the subscriber device 102A has insufficient non-volatile storage capacity, because the subscriber does not periodically backup the non-volatile storage of his/her subscriber device 102A and desires to utilize the service provider's data backup computing service, or because of various other reasons), may utilize his/her virtual non-volatile storage as described above with respect to the first scenario. In other words, the first subscriber may upload, store, and retrieve data used or produced by an application(s) present on his/her subscriber device 102A as necessary, thereby supplementing the non-volatile storage capacity of his/her subscriber device 102A.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 14, as follows:

In another exemplary use of subscriber device ~~102~~, a second subscriber who travels a great deal may prefer to use a subscriber device 102B of the second type (i.e., a "thin" subscriber device 102B) because such a device 102B is light weight, requires little space, and is, otherwise, convenient for travel purposes. Because his/her subscriber device 102B is not sufficiently robust enough to perform word processing and spreadsheet processing, the second subscriber may

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utilize his/her virtual non-volatile storage as described above with respect to the second scenario. Thus, the subscriber may utilize his/her subscriber device 102B essentially as a "dumb" terminal to access and cause the execution of the word processing and spreadsheet processing applications which are stored in his/her

5   virtual non-volatile storage, thereby taking advantage of the robustness of a host server 104 to store and execute the word processing and spreadsheet processing applications while selectively storing data input to or output by such applications in the non-volatile storage of his/her subscriber device 102B to enhance the perceived security of such data.

10   Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 27, as follows:

In still another exemplary use of subscriber device 102, a third subscriber who travels more than the first subscriber described above, but less than the second subscriber described above uses a subscriber device 102C of the third type. The third subscriber desires to use the robustness provided by a host server 104,

15   the automatic updating of applications by the service provider 100, and the data backup computing service provided by the service provider 100 for many of the applications that he/she uses, but yet desires to store particular data on his/her subscriber device 102C and to store and execute particular applications on his/her subscriber device 102C. Therefore, the third subscriber uses his/her subscriber

20   device 102C as described above with respect to the third scenario. Thus, the third subscriber executes some applications and stores data, in his/her virtual non-volatile storage, which is used by or produced from such applications on an appropriate host server 104, and executes other applications and stores data used or produced from such other applications on his/her subscriber device 102C.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 8, as follows:

The one or more host server(s) 104 of the service provider 100 and subscriber devices ~~102~~, preferably, comprise respective computer hardware and software components which are operable in cooperation to provide the respective

5   functionality described herein. Fig. 2 displays a block diagram representation of the hardware components of a computer system 210 and environment ~~therefor~~ <u>therefore</u> 200 which may be utilized to implement the host server(s) 104 and an associated host server environment <u>therefore</u> in accordance with the described embodiment of the present invention. Although described herein as including one

10   or more host server(s) 104, the service provider 100, in a practical implementation of the present invention, preferably comprises a plurality of host servers 104 with each having hardware components substantially similar to computer system 210 and each being related and communicatively connected to another host server 104 in a manner substantially similar to the relationship and communicative

15   connection of computer system 210 and remote computer system 280.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 15, as follows:

Fig. 3 displays a block diagram representation of the computer software components 300 of a host server 104 in accordance with the embodiment of the present invention described herein. The computer software components 300,

20   preferably, comprise a host server operating system 302, a plurality of computer software programs, or software modules, <u>304A-D</u>, a subscriber information database 306, and subscriber virtual non-volatile storage 106 which reside and are stored in the non-volatile memory of a host server 104. The host server operating system 302 includes a plurality of computer executable software instructions

25   which, when executed by a host server's processing unit, enables the host server 104 to perform basic functions necessary for the overall management and control of the host server's operation. Such basic functions, preferably, include managing

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the execution of computer software programs 304A-D, enabling the storage and retrieval of data from data flies and/or databases, and directing the communication of data between processes and with communication network 116. A host server operating system 302, acceptable in accordance with the embodiment of the present invention described herein, is MICROSOFT WINDOWS SERVER 2003 available from Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, Washington. Similarly, each computer software program 304A-D includes a plurality of computer executable software instructions. However, when such computer executable software instructions are executed by a host server's processing unit, the instructions cause the host server 104 to implement various methods of the present invention by performing various functions for the provision of computing service provider 100 to subscribers thereof.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 30, as follows:

To aid in the collection and modification of subscriber information, the subscriber enrollment program 304A includes a first subscriber enrollment window 400 (see Fig. 4) and a second subscriber enrollment window 500 (see Fig. 5). The subscriber enrollment program 304A causes the display of such windows 400, 500 on a user/subscriber device 102 (preferably, via the subscriber device's web browser), respectively, when a user desires to enroll with the service provider 100 for the receipt of computing services or when a subscriber desires to modify his/her subscriber information previously collected and stored by the host server 104.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 6, as follows:

The first subscriber enrollment window 400 displays the subscriber's then present virtual non-volatile storage configuration information (and, hence, the configuration parameters thereof) as a plurality of configuration options 402

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corresponding to the above-described configuration parameters. The configuration options 402 are selectable by a user/subscriber (e.g., via the subscriber's device ~~102~~) from window 400 to allow the user/subscriber to configure or reconfigure the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108 and the

5   maintenance thereof. The configuration options 402 are grouped in, preferably, five difference groups 404 comprising, without limitation: a virtual non-volatile storage capacity group 404A; an operating system group 404B; an applications group 404C; an update group 404D; and, a backup group 404E.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 11, as follows:

10   A second computer software program 304B, referred to herein as a virtual non-volatile storage interface program 304B, is operable to enable a subscriber to access and utilize his/her virtual non-volatile storage 108 in accordance with a method 1100 for enabling access to and use of a subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108 described below. The virtual non-volatile storage interface program

15   304B is connected to the host server operating system 302, via interprocess communication link 308, for the bi-directional communication of data therebetween, to the subscriber information database 306 for the retrieval and use of subscriber information stored therein, and to the virtual non-volatile storage 106. The virtual non-volatile storage interface program 304B is, preferably,

20   adapted to cause a host server 104 to: establish a communication session with a subscriber device ~~102~~ of a subscriber desiring to access and utilize his/her non-volatile storage 108; to execute the operating system 302 stored in the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108 during the communication session; to cause the display of a subscriber-selected user interface of the subscriber device

25   ~~102~~ and interact with the subscriber and subscriber device ~~102~~ via such user interface during the communication session; to receive, or upload, data files and/or databases from the subscriber device ~~102~~ during the communication session and

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store such data files and/or databases in the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108; to retrieve data files and/or databases from the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108 and send, or download, such data files and/or databases to the subscriber device 102 during the communication session; and, to execute, at

5   the direction of the subscriber, one or more application(s) 112 stored in the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108 during the communication session.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 1, as follows:

By being operable to cause the display of the subscriber-selected user interface on the subscriber device 102 and to interact with the subscriber via such

10   a user interface, the virtual non-volatile storage interface program 304B enables a subscriber to access and utilize his/her virtual non-volatile storage 108 during a communication session through a user interface that the subscriber prefers, regardless of the type of subscriber device 102 being used by the subscriber. Therefore, if the subscriber normally accesses his/her virtual non-volatile storage

15   108 using a personal digital assistant with a MICROSOFT Windows Mobile™ user interface, but is staying at a hotel having a business center with desktop personal computers which use a traditional MICROSOFT WINDOWS user interface, the subscriber may access his/her virtual non-volatile storage 108 using a desktop personal computer in the business center with the MICROSOFT

20   Windows Mobile™ user interface instead of the MICROSOFT WINDOWS user interface. Alternatively, if the subscriber normally accesses his/her virtual non-volatile storage 108 using a desktop personal computer having a traditional MICROSOFT WINDOWS user interface, but is traveling with personal digital assistant having a MICROSOFT Windows Mobile™ user interface, the subscriber

25   may access his/her virtual non-volatile storage 108 using the personal digital assistant with a traditional MICROSOFT WINDOWS user interface instead of the MICROSOFT Windows Mobile™ user interface. The virtual non-volatile storage

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interface program 304B is capable of causing the display of plurality of subscriber-selectable user interfaces on a subscriber device ~~102~~ and of interacting the subscriber device ~~102~~ and a subscriber via such subscriber-selectable user interfaces. The plurality of subscriber-selectable user interfaces include, without

5   limitation, a <u>MICROSOFT WINDOWS</u> user interface 600 (see Fig. 6) and a <u>MICROSOFT</u> Windows Mobile™ user interface 700 (see Fig. 7).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 7, as follows:

As described above, subscribers may utilize a plurality of different types of subscriber devices ~~102~~ to access and utilize their virtual non-volatile storage 108

10   in accordance with different scenarios. Nonetheless, the subscriber devices ~~102~~ of each particular type, preferably, comprise hardware components similar to those of the computer system 210 described above with reference to Fig. 2. However, the subscriber devices ~~102~~ further comprise a plurality of software components which may differ for each type of subscriber device ~~102~~ depending on the relative

15   robustness of each type of subscriber device ~~102~~ and on the manner in which subscribers use their subscriber devices ~~102~~.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 15, as follows:

Fig. 8 displays a block diagram representation of exemplary software components 800 of a subscriber device ~~102~~ utilized by a subscriber according to

20   the third scenario described above. The software components 800 comprise a subscriber device operating system 802, a plurality of application programs 804, a web browser program 806, a file transfer program 808, and a plurality of application data files 810 which reside and are stored in the non-volatile memory of the subscriber device ~~102~~. The subscriber operating system 802 includes a

25   plurality of computer executable software instructions which, when executed by the subscriber device's processing unit, enables the subscriber device ~~102~~ to

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perform basic functions necessary for the overall management and control of the subscriber device's operation. Such basic functions, preferably, include managing the execution of application programs 804, enabling the storage and retrieval of data from data files and/or databases, displaying a user interface and enabling

5   subscriber interaction therewith, and directing the communication of data between processes and with communication network 116. A subscriber device operating system 802, acceptable in accordance with the embodiment of the present invention described herein, is MICROSOFT WINDOWS XP Home Edition available from Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, Washington. Similarly, the

10 application programs 804, web browser 806, file transfer program 808 each include a plurality of computer executable software instructions which, when executed by the subscriber devices' processing unit, cause the subscriber device 102 to provide the respective functions thereof to the subscriber.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 3, as follows:

15   The application programs 804A, 804B are connected to the subscriber device operating system 802, via interprocess communication links 812A, 812B, for the bi-directional communication of data therebetween and to the application data files 810A and databases 810B for the storage of application data therein and the retrieval of application data therefrom. Preferably, the application programs

20 804A, 804B are adapted to cause a subscriber device 102 to perform word processing, spreadsheet processing, contact management, electronic mail communication, database management, and other similar functions. Exemplary application programs 804 include, without limitation, MICROSOFT WORD, MICROSOFT EXCEL, MICROSOFT OUTLOOK, and MICROSOFT ACCESS

25 available from Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, Washington. Application data files 810A and databases 810B store word processing documents, spreadsheets,

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contact information, electronic mail messages, and other types of data created or manipulated by the application programs 804A, 804B.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 15, as follows:

The web browser program 806 enables a subscriber device ~~102~~ to
5   communicatively connect to a host server 104 on which a subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108 resides and to access and utilize application(s) and data stored herein. The web browser program 806 is connected to the subscriber device operating system 802 and to the file transfer program 808, via interprocess communication links 812C, 812D, for the bi-directional communication of data
10   therebetween. The web browser program 806 is, preferably, adapted to cause a subscriber device ~~102~~ to: establish a communication session with the host server 104 on which a subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108 resides; display a user interface selected by the subscriber and generated by virtual non-volatile storage interface program 304B of the host server 104; receive subscriber input
15   information via such user interface and communicate such information to the virtual non-volatile storage interface program 304B of the host server 104; receive subscriber input information via such user interface and communicate such information to the virtual non-volatile storage interface program 304B of the host server 104; receive information from the host server 104 and provide such
20   information to the subscriber via such user interface; enable access and use of the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108 via such user interface; and, control the uploading and downloading of data files 810A and databases 810B to/from the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108 using the file transfer program 808. An exemplary web browser program 806, acceptable in accordance with the
25   embodiment described herein, is <u>MICROSOFT</u> Internet Explorer available from Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, Washington.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 1, as follows:

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The file transfer program 808 allows a subscriber device 102 to upload data files 810A and databases 810B stored thereon to a subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108 and to download data files 810A and databases 810B stored in the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108 to the subscriber service 102. The file

5   transfer program 808 is connected to the subscriber device operating system 802 and to the web browser program 806, via respective interprocess communication links 812E, 812D, for the bi-directional communication of data therebetween. The file transfer program 808 is, preferably, adapted to cause the subscriber device 102, acting in cooperation with the web browser program 806, to: upload a data

10   file 810A or database 810B from the subscribers device 102 to the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108; and, download a data file 810A or database 810B from the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108 to the subscriber device 102. An exemplary file transfer program 808 includes the "ftp" file transfer program.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 27, as follows:

15   After enrolling subscribers, the method 900 advances to step 906 where the service provider 100, via a host server 104, enables subscribers to access and use their respective virtual non-volatile storage 108. Preferably, the service provider's website includes an access option that is selectable by a subscriber. Upon selection of the access option by a subscriber, the host server 104 initiates

20   execution of the virtual non-volatile storage interface program 304B which uses the method 1100 for enabling access to and use of a subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108, described below with reference to Fig. 11, to cause the host server 104 to establish a communication session with the subscriber device 102 and to cause the display of a subscriber-selectable user interface on the subscriber

25   device 102. During such communication session and via selections made by the subscriber from the user interface, the subscriber may: upload data files 810A or databases 810B from the subscriber device 102 to the subscriber's virtual non-

volatile storage 108; download data files 114A or databases 114B from the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108 to the subscriber device 102; run application(s) 112 stored in the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108 using the processing unit and other hardware components of the host server 104; or,

5   select a different user interface for display on the subscriber device 102. When the subscriber has completed use of his/her virtual non-volatile storage 108, the subscriber closes the user interface to exit the communication session with the host server 104.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 24, as follows:

10   Figs. 10A and 10B display a flowchart representation of a method 1000 for enrolling subscribers in accordance with the embodiment of the present invention described herein. After starting at step 1002, method 1000 proceeds to step 1004 where a host server 104 of the service provider 100 establishes a communication session with a potential subscriber device 102 in response to the potential

15   subscriber selecting an enrollment option from a service provider website. Next, at step 1006, the host server 104 causes the display of the first subscriber enrollment window 400 (also sometimes referred to herein as the "configuration information window 400") (see Fig. 4) on the potential subscriber device 102. Preferably, the configuration information window 400 is in the form of an XML

20   data file and the host server 104 causes the display of the configuration information window 400 on the potential subscriber device 102 by communicating the XML data file to the potential subscriber device 102. Then, the potential subscriber inputs configuration information to the configuration information window 400 in order to configure his/her virtual non-volatile storage 108. Once

25   the potential subscriber has defined his/her virtual non-volatile storage 108 and has selected the "Ok" button, the host server 104, at step 1008, receives the

potential subscriber's configuration information inputs from the potential subscriber device 102.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 30, line 9, as follows:

Continuing at step 1010, the host server 104 causes the display of the
5 second subscriber enrollment window 500 (also sometimes referred to herein as the "personal and billing information window 500") (see Fig. 5) on the potential subscriber device 102. Similar to the configuration information window 400, the personal and billing information window 500 is, preferably, in the form of the XML data file and the host server 104 causes the display of the personal and
10 billing information window 500 on the potential subscriber device 102 by communicating the XML data file to the potential subscriber device 102. Once the personal and billing information window 500 is displayed, the potential subscriber inputs his/her personal information and billing information to the window 500. After the potential subscriber has input his/her personal and billing information
15 and has selected the "Ok" button, the host server 104, at step 1012, receives the potential subscriber's personal and billing information inputs from the potential subscriber device 102. Then, the host server 104 stores the subscriber information in the subscriber information database 306 at step 1014 and ends the communication session with the potential subscriber at step 1016. After storing of
20 the subscriber information, the potential subscriber may be referred to as a subscriber.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 31, line 13, as follows:

Figs. 11A-11C display a flowchart representation of a method 1100 for enabling access to and use of a subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108
25 according to the embodiment of the present invention described herein. After starting at step 1102, the method advances to step 1104 where the host server 104

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establishes a communication session with a subscriber device ~~102~~. The communication session is established, preferably, in response to a subscriber selecting an access option on a service provider website. During the establishment of such communication session, the host server 104, preferably, receives data from the subscriber device ~~102~~ identifying the type of the subscriber device 108 or identifying the user interface preferred by the subscriber for use in accessing and using his/her virtual non-volatile storage 108. If the host server 104 receives only data identifying the type of the subscriber device 108, the host server 104 uses such data to determine, at step 1106, the user interface (e.g., the <u>MICROSOFT</u> <u>WINDOWS</u> user interface, the <u>MICROSOFT</u> Windows Mobile™ user interface, or another user interface) to be displayed on the subscriber device ~~102~~ and used by the subscriber to access and use his/her virtual non-volatile storage 108. Otherwise, the host server 104 uses the data identifying the subscriber's preferred user interface and no such determination is necessary. Regardless of how the host server 104 decides on a user interface to display, the host server 104 causes the subscriber device ~~102~~ to display the user interface thereon at step 1108.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 31, line 30, as follows:

Proceeding to step 1100 of method 1100, the host server 104 waits for and receives, from the subscriber device ~~102~~ via the user interface, a selection by the subscriber of a user interface control or option indicating that the subscriber desires to upload a file, download a file, execute an application, or request a change to another user interface. The host server 104 then considers the received selection, at step 1112, to determine whether the subscriber desires to upload a file. If not, the host server 104 branches forward to step 1118 of method 1100 described below. If so, the host server 104 receives the uploaded data file from the subscriber device ~~102~~ at step 1114 and stores the uploaded data file in the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108 at step 1116. Once the uploaded data

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file is stored, the host server 104 returns to step 1110 where it again waits for a subscriber selection.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 9, as follows:

At step 1118, the host server 104 considers the received selection to
5   ascertain whether the subscriber desires to download an identified file. If the host
server 104 ascertains that the subscriber does not desire to download a file, the
host server 104 advances to step 1124 of method 1100 described below.
Alternatively, if the host server 104 ascertains that the subscriber desires to
download an identified file, the host server 104 retrieves the identified data file
10   from the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108 at step 1120 and sends, or
communicates, the retrieved data file to the subscriber device ~~102~~ at step 1122.
After the download is complete, the host server 104 loops back to step 1110 of
method 1100 to await another subscriber selection.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 17, as follows:

15   At step 1124, the host server 104 considers the selection received at step
1110 to decide whether it indicates that the subscriber desires to run, or execute,
an application stored in the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108. If the
host server 104 decides that the selection does not indicate a desire to run an
application, the host server 104 branches ahead to step 1128 of the method 110
20   described below. If, however, the host server 104 decides that the selection
indicates that the subscriber desires to run an application identified with the
selection, the host sever 104 executes the identified application from the
subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108 at the host server 104 <u>at step 1126</u> and
communicates inputs and outputs ~~therefor~~ <u>therefore</u> with the subscriber device ~~102~~
25   via the user interface. Upon completing execution of the application, the host

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server 104 branches back to step 1110 to wait for another selection from the subscriber.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 27, as follows:

5   At step 1128, the host server 104 determines whether the selection received at step 1110 signifies that the subscriber desires to change to an identified user interface. If not, the host server 104 branches forward to step 1132 described below. If so, the host server 104 causes the subscriber device ~~102~~ to display the identified user interface thereon <u>at step 1130</u>. Once the identified user interface is displayed, the host server 104 loops back to step 1110 to await receipt of another
10   subscriber selection.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 33, line 3, as follows:

At step 1132, the host server 104 ends the communication session with the subscriber device ~~102~~. Then, at step 1134, the host server 104 terminates operation in accordance with method 1100.

15   Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 34, line 23, as follows:

Next, at step 1222, the host server 104 determines whether the nightly backup identifier of the retrieved configuration information is set. If the nightly backup identifier is set, the subscriber desires for the service provider 100 to backup his/her virtual non-volatile storage 108 on a nightly basis. If the nightly
20   backup identifier is not set, the subscriber does not desire for the service provider 100 to backup his/her virtual non-volatile storage 108 on a nightly basis. Upon determining that the nightly backup identifier is not set, the host server 104 advances to step 1226 described below. Alternatively, upon determining that the nightly backup identifier is set, the host server 104 causes the nightly backup of
25   the subscriber's virtual non-volatile storage 108 to be performed <u>at step 1224</u>.

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Preferably, the nightly backup is performed on a scheduled basis by an appropriate backup utility that executes at a time when the subscriber is not likely to be using his/her virtual non-volatile storage 108.